The Status of Some Australian Amblyopone Species (Hym.: Formicidae)

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A recent tour of Australia and a visit to the British Museum (Natural History) permit me to correct the synonymy of some of the smaller, yellowish species of *Amblyopone* Erichson with longitudinally striate heads, related to *A. ferruginea* Fred. Smith.

Amblyopone ferruginea Fred. Smith

A. ferruginea Fred. Smith, 1858, Cat. Hym. Brit. Mus. 6: 110, worker, *nec A. ferruginea* Wheeler, 1927, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci. 62: 20–22, fig. 5, worker.
A. ferruginea Clark (*in litt.*) in Wheeler, 1927, *op. cit.*, p. 22, Victorian records.
A. mandibularis Clark, 1928, Jour. R. Soc. W. Aust. 14: 33–34, Pl. 1, figs. 12–15, worker. New Synonymy

The worker of this species has the inner mandibular borders crowded with small, mostly subequal teeth, usually double-ranked in unworn specimens; no very large tooth in an isolated position basad of the midlength. So far as I am aware, the distribution as known is confined to Melbourne and suburbs plus the adjacent lower basin of the Yarra River and the stretch of country immediately south of the Dandenong Ranges and west to Port Phillip Bay. Melbourne is the type locality given by Smith.

Workers from the type nest of Clark's *A. mandibularis,* from Belgrave, Victoria, kindly given me by the original collector, Mr. F. E. Wilson, have been compared by me with the *A. ferruginea* holotype and prove to be the same species.

I have seen *A. ferruginea* from additional Victorian localities as follows: Ferntree Gully (F. P. Spry). Greensborough (J. McAreavey). Burnley; East Burwood; Mooroolbark; Lower Ferntree Gully; Warrandyte; Research; Eltham (W. L. Brown). This ant is strongly hypogaeic, and therefore,

while common in its range, it is not very commonly seen except after the winter and spring rains, when the workers come up beneath logs and stones or are washed out onto the ground surface. I have seen numerous enfeebled and dead workers on the surface after particularly heavy rains during the winter of 1951 in the park at Burnley, where *Iridomyrmex* workers carried them off by the dozen.

The preferred habitat is in the soil of medium-rainfall sclerophyll forest such as the eucalypt-wattle bush to the east of Melbourne, or in the *Eucalyptus elaeophora-E. macrorrhyncha* association of the Eltham district. This species appears to be replaced in the wetter sclerophyll forest and fern gullies by *Amblyopone* of the *australis* group and of the very small "Fulakora" complex.

Amblyopone longidens Forel, reinstated as a good species

A. ferruginea var. *longidens* Forel, 1910, Rev. Suisse Zool. 18: 1, worker.

A. ferruginea Wheeler, 1927, Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts Sci. 62: 20–22, fig. 5, worker (*nec* Clark records *in litt.*, p. 22), *nec* Fred. Smith.

Wheeler (*loc. cit*) wrongly synonymized *longidens* with *A. ferruginea,* as is evident from Forel's short description and his citation of the type locality (Bombala, New South Wales). As Forel stated, *A. longidens* has a large, sharp isolated tooth on the inner mandibular border just basad of the midlength, while the few remaining teeth are grouped along the apical half of the border. This species has a far wider range and is commoner than is *A. ferruginea;* it occurs very close to the Melbourne area (I have seen specimens from Gembrook, Victoria), but has not yet been found actually within the range of *A. ferruginea. A. longidens* is a common ant in open forest and savannah woodland areas of eastern New South Wales; I have examined most of the specimens upon which Wheeler based his New South Wales records, and have, in the company of Mr. Tom Greaves, also found this ant at many places in the hills around Canberra during the early winter after heavy rains, usually under logs and stones. Mr. Bruce Given and I found

it also under slabs of rock in dense scrub of Grampians snow gum (*Eucalyptus alpina*) at Mirranatwa Gap, Grampians Ranges, western Victoria. I have also found numerous workers after rains under logs and grass tree stumps in mallee heath and *Casuarina stricta* scrub near the Ravine des Casoars, western Kangaroo Island, South Australia; the latter is apparently the most westerly known record.

A. longidens varies considerably in size, and many specimens have the head and alitrunk deeply infuscated, but the dentition remains constant; no intergrades to *A. ferruginea* have been seen. The distributional pattern shown by these two species is a curious one, and unaccountable when the seeming lack of barriers or major ecological differences is taken into account. There does seem to be a difference in moisture preferences, with *A. longidens* tolerating drier sites; but why *A. ferruginea* remains known from such a restricted area is a mystery. The distribution of *ferruginea* in and around Melbourne is almost that of an introduced species, and this latter possibility must not be ruled out entirely until the relationship of *ferruginea* to the very similar *A. clarki* Wheeler of southwestern Australia has been thoroughly studied.

Undescribed Species of Crane-Flies from the Western United States and Canada (Dipt.: Tipulidae) Part XIII

By Charles P. Alexander, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts

(*Continued from page 237*)

Erioptera (Symplecta) sunwapta new species

General coloration gray, the praescutum with three narrow darker brown stripes; wings with the ground rather strongly infuscated; abdomen dark brownish gray, the lateral borders